WAID - AUGUSTYN - KITSON - BAIR

JLA™ YEAR ONE

NO.5

MAY '98

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DOOMED!

MANCHESTER, ALABAMA.

THE GREEN GUY.

THE MARTIAN?

NAW. NAW. THE GREEN LANTERN. HE'S THE LEADER, RIGHT?

MY SISTER'S NEIGHBOR TOLD ME HE STOPPED AN EARTHQUAKE!

...SAYS HERE THEY MET THE PRESIDENT...!

NEWSTIME

REALLY? I HEARD WHERE FLASH 'N' AQUAMAN FOUGHT A WHOLE INVASION A' SPACE CREATURES!

DAILY PLANET

SAVED BY THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

AND THE CHICK... OH, THE CHICK...

...YOU REALLY THINK I'M PRETTIER THAN THIS "BLACK CANARY," HAROLD?

ABSOLEATHER--

--LUTELY! ABSOLUTELY!

DAILY PLANET

SAVED BY THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

HEY! RECKON THAT WAS THE FLASH WHAT RUN THROUGH FARMER DAWSON'S OL' STUMP 'N' BUSTED IT UP?

'AT WAS JUST LIGHTNIN', WILLIE. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AIN'T NEVER COMIN' T'THIS OL' TOWN, BETCHA ANYTHING.

WHY WOULD THEY?

OLD NAVY HOME

NOW, MASTER?

NOW, MALLAH.

McMARTS

TV AND AUDIO

SSSKOW

KZZZKZZT

AIEEEEEEEEE!

JLA

EE-UUNGH!

WHAT TH--?

I CAIN'T SEE!

AAAAH!

GHUUH GHUUH GHUUH

LORDAMIGHTY, I CAIN'T SEE I--

NYAAAAAH!

MY FAAAACE

EEEEEE

AHUH AHUH AHUH

MASTER, HAVE I PLEASED YOU? HAVE I?

WE SHALL SEE, MALLAH.

WE SHALL SEE...

HELLLP MEEEEE

A LEAGUE DIVIDED

MARK WAID / BRIAN AUGUSTYN / BARRY KITSON
STORYTELLERS

MICHAEL BAIR
GUEST INKER

KEN LOPEZ
LETTERER

PAT GARRAHY
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JLA HEADQUARTERS.

NO QUESTIONS. NOT ANYMORE.

LOCUS

Ferris Ind

an-Green I

THIS IS JUST THE INFORMATION LOCUS NEEDS TO--

KLANK

AQUAMAN, IS THAT YOU?

KLINK

IT'S SNAPPER! THE MECHANIC? I'M DOIN' DUCTWORK!

KLONK

POP THE STUCK VENT, AND--

I'M COMIN' DOWN! BE RIGHT THERE!

JUST LET ME

CHANK!

THERE! I KNEW GRAVITY WAS MY FRIEND! HEY AQUAMAN, CAN YOU HAND ME--

?

FUNNY.

THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEBODY...

JLA

MOBILE VISTA, CALIFORNIA.

AQUAMAN, KEEP DIVING!

ENTIRE HOMES ARE SUBMERGED! THIS FLASH-FLOOD'S SWAMPED THE WHOLE TRAILER PARK! IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO DAM THE RIVER!

ARROW! GET PEOPLE OUT OF THE CURRENT!

NO PROBLEM! GRAB THE LINE, FOLKS!

GREEN :KOFF:

GREEN ARROW? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE :KOFF:

A LEAGUER? ME? NAH? JUST SLUMMING.

NOW, REACH--!

BOBBY! KELLY! OH, THANK GOD!

YOU-- YOU'RE A JLAER, RIGHT?

APPARENTLY...

...THOUGH I OFTEN WONDER *WHY*. IT'S NOT AS IF I HAVE A "SUPER-POWER"...

...AT LEAST, NOT BY *MY* STANDARDS. I WAS *BORN* AQUATIC. ON SOIL, I BECOME *CLUMSY* AND *AWKWARD*.

WHY CONFINE MYSELF TO *LAND* WITH THE *LEAGUE*? TO WITNESS THERE ONLY A *FRACTION* OF THE WORLD'S NATURAL *BEAUTY*?

MORE AND MORE I'M FORCED TO *WONDER*...

...HOW WELL DO I FIT *IN* WITH THIS "JLA"?

ALL CLEAR *BELOW*! HOW CAN I HELP UP *HERE*?

IT'S ALL RIGHT! I HAVE IT *UNDER CONTROL*!

BUT--

RELAX, GILL. CAN I CALL YOU "GILL"?

CAN I *STOP* YOU?

LANTERN'S BEING A *GLORY HOUND* AGAIN. THE BOY CAN'T SEEM TO *HELP* HIMSELF. LAY *BACK*.

NO *CASUALTIES*, THANK GOD... BUT *CLEANUP'S* GONNA BE A *BEAR*.

UNLESS *YOU* HAVE IT "*UNDER CONTROL*," LANTERN...

THERE'S PLENTY HERE FOR *ALL* OF US, I'D SAY. MAN...

"...WHERE'S THE FLASH WHEN YOU NEED HIM?"

OUT

IN

ALLEN, WHY IS YOUR DESK ALWAYS SO CLEAN?

CAPTAIN PAULSEN, SIR! I'VE... BEEN WORKING...

WHEN? NOT ONLY ARE YOU PERPETUALLY LATE-- YOU SEEM TO LEAVE WHENEVER YOU WANT THESE DAYS! YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE DOING YOUR JOB!

MOONLIGHTING, ARE YOU?

NOT... NOT REALLY, SIR...

RING RING

WELL, IF WE'RE BORING YOU AROUND HERE, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD FIND SOMETHING MORE EXCITING TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE. UNTIL THEN--

--AT LEAST LOOK BUSY!

YES, SIR.

OH, HI, IRIS. SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT. I WAS WITH... FRIENDS.

AGAIN? BARRY, I'M LOSING PATIENCE WITH YOU. I MISS YOU.

YOU SEEM TO BE GOING THROUGH SOME CHANGES. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HOLD ONTO THE BARRY ALLEN I KNOW?

NOT REALLY, NO.

AFTER ALL, IT'S LOOKING MORE AND MORE...

"...LIKE BARRY ALLEN NO LONGER EXISTS."

WHY DID WE LEAVE--

YOU'RE *MUMBLING* AGAIN. WE'RE NOT *UNDERWATER*. SPEAK *UP*.

WHY DID WE LEAVE *GREEN ARROW* BEHIND? SHOULDN'T WE OFFER HIM *MEMBERSHIP*?

HUH? HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT. TRICK ARROWS? HE DOESN'T REALLY HAVE ANY *SUPER-POWERS*...

I DON'T HAVE ANY--

OH, NEVER MIND. I'M GOING TO MY *PRIVATE QUARTERS* TO CLEAN *UP*. HELLO, J'ONN.

GREETINGS, AQUAMAN.

OH, SURE! *NOW!*

NOW *BOTH* OF YOU SHOW UP! WHERE WERE YOU WHEN WE WERE JUGGLING *TRAILERS*?

SORRY. WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL US *IN*?

ARE YOU *KIDDING*? THE ALL-POWERFUL GREEN *LANTERN*? SEND A *DISTRESS ALERT* WITH HIS *JLA SIGNAL DEVICE*? CALL IN *HELP*?

I'M SURE HE HAD IT "UNDER CONTROL." RIGHT, GL?

MMM

ALL RIGHT, MAYBE... MAYBE I'M A LITTLE SLOW ON THE *SIGNAL TRIGGER*...

...BUT I *CAN* COUNT ON YOU TWO IN A *PINCH*, RIGHT?

OF *COURSE* YOU CAN, CANARY, *TOO*. SPEAKING OF WHICH...

...ANYONE *SEEN* HER TODAY?

NOW THAT YOU *MENTION* IT, I HAVEN'T

IRRIMM

VRROOOMM

SCREEE

NICE BIKE!

I'LL SAY! IS THAT THE ONE WILDCAT USED TO RIDE? IT--

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE JUSTICE SOCIETY

CANARY, WHAT'S THE

BY THE WAY, I KNOW WE HAVEN'T EXCHANGED SECRET IDENTITIES YET--

--BUT TELL ME RIGHT NOW AND TELL ME STRAIGHT--

--ARE ANY OF YOU GUYS MARRIED?

WHAT?

I AM.

J'ONN...?

OR, RATHER... I WAS...

MY LIFE ON *MARS* WAS RICH WITH A *WIFE* AND A *DAUGHTER*.

JUST BEFORE AN ERRANT *TELEPORTATION BEAM* BROUGHT ME TO YOUR WORLD, THEY WERE *TAKEN* FROM ME IN A TRAGIC *ACCIDENT*.

TO THIS *DAY*, I SOMETIMES THINK I HEAR THE SONG OF THEIR *LAUGHTER* IN THE STILL NIGHT AIR.

I AM MISTAKEN.

...

WOW. J'ONN, WE... WE HAD NO *IDEA*.

I HAVE ACCUMULATED FURTHER DATA ON THE *LOCUS* ORGANIZATION. LET US *REVIEW* IT.

GLADLY. IF YOU'LL *REMEMBER*, BRINGING THEM TO *JUSTICE* WAS ONE OF THE REASONS WE BANDED TOGETHER IN THE *FIRST* PLACE.

WHY ARE THEY *AFTER* US? WHO *ARE* THEY?

STILL *UNCERTAIN*. SOME EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE *GENETICISTS*. OTHER SOURCES REFER TO THEM AS *SURVIVALISTS*.

I AM NOT SURE HOW THOSE TWO DOCTRINES *MESH*...

...BUT WHATEVER THEIR *MOTIVES*, THEY ARE APPARENTLY *RUTHLESS* TO THE *EXTREME*. SEE FOR *YOURSELVES*.

NICE *WORK*, J'ONN... BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU SHARE THIS INFORMATION... *ANY* INFORMATION... *EARLIER*?

IT DID NOT OCCUR TO ME TO *DO* SO.

GREAT. SOME *TEAM*.

ARE *ALL* GROUPS THIS DISJOINTED?

MIDWAY CITY

I'M LIFTIN' HERE, CRACKLEHEAD!

BUZZ OFF!

CRACKLE

AWRIGHT! AWRIGHT, ALREADY! I'M SORRY I CALLED POOR LARRY A MUMMY-PUSS--

--BUT IN CASE YOU AIN'T NOTICED, PAL, I AIN'T WINNIN' ANY BEAUTY PAGEANTS EITHER!

NOW LEMME BE, BEFORE YA MAKE ME--

--WHOOPS-- WHOOPS--

AW, GEEZ! THANKS! THE CHIEF'S GONNA TAKE THAT OUTTA ME ONE TRANSISTOR AT A TIME!

THOOM!

THAT'S IT! FLY AWAY, YOU RADIOACTIVE MENACE--

-- CAUSE WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON YA--

--I'M GONNA SHOVE A CARBON ROD UP YOUR--

HEY!

RITA, BABY, LEMME AT HIM--!

CHILDREN. I'M SURROUNDED BY CHILDREN!

LET NEGATIVE MAN GO, CLIFF!

YOU KNOW IF HE'S NOT BACK IN LARRY'S BODY WITHIN SIXTY SECONDS, THEY'LL BOTH DIE!

I WOULDN'T WANT THAT T'HAPPEN, DOLL--

--'CAUSE THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF KILLIN' HIM HANDS-ON!

OH, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE--!

BIG TALK, YOU CLANKING, CLUNKING CAN OF GEARS! GO KISS A STEAM SHOVEL--!

STOP IT, ALL OF YOU! GET IN HERE! WE HAVE A MISSION!

WHAT'S UP, CHIEF? THE PRESIDENT LOSE HIS JELLY BEANS AGAIN?

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO DEFEAT THE BROTHERHOOD ONCE AND FOR ALL! I'LL BE MONITORING YOUR PROGRESS THROUGH CLIFF'S CHEST CAMERA!

GO! GO!

WE'RE GONE, DADDY-O! COLOR US VAMOOSED! C'MON, GANG! LET'S GO WHISTLE SOME DIXIE!

THIS IS SERIOUS, CLIFF! THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL HAS ATTACKED THE PEOPLE OF MANCHESTER!

SOMEHOW THEY'RE CLEANLY STEALING BITS AND PIECES OF HUMAN VICTIMS--

--AND GRAFTING BODY PARTS ONTO GROTESQUE PROTOPLASMIC BODIES TO CREATE A FRANKENSTEIN ARMY!

BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT? A BALLET OF TERROR.

IF I STILL HAD SKIN, IT WOULD BE TINGLING.

ZIS IS HARDLY A WORK OF ART, BRAIN. EET IS REVOLTING!

SAYS THE FRENCHIE WITH ELASTIC LIMBS. STILL, MADAME ROUGE IS RIGHT. THIS'LL BRING THE DOOM PATROL RIGHT TO US!

SHOULDN'T WE MOVE OUT BEFORE--

SILENCE, MORDEN! WHEN THE BRAIN GAVE ME INTELLIGENCE, HE EARNED MY OBEDIENCE!

NOW I DEMAND YOURS! THE MASTER IS ALL-WISE! WE STAY-- TO FIGHT!

AND FIGHT WE SHALL--MALLAH-- USING LOCUS'S GENEGRAFT RAY--

--AN ADVANCED TELEPORTATION APPLICATION WHICH COUPLES HUMAN FLESH TO CREATE NEW BODIES!

IN FACT, IF ALL GOES AS PLANNED--OUR PRIME TEST SUBJECTS SHOULD ARRIVE AT ANY MOMENT--!

--HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, BUT I CAN'T TALK TO HER THE WAY I TALK TO--TO--

WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT MARRIAGE QUESTION?

TRUTH? THAT I JUST FOUND OUT MY MOM ONCE...HAD AN AFFAIR WITH A MARRIED JSAER.

NO! WHICH ONE?

IT DOESN'T MATTER. THAT'S NOT WHAT BURNS.

WHAT BURNS IS THAT I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF ALL THE JSAERS AS ABOVE REPROACH. I MADE THEM MY STANDARD... MY BENCHMARK.

NOW I KNOW THEY'RE ONLY HUMAN.

AND IN THIS JOB, THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO IS LET YOURSELF BE HUMAN.

DON'T GET ME WRONG. WE'RE NOT FREAKS. WE WEREN'T BORN DIFFERENT.

BUT WE BECAME DIFFERENT THE MOMENT WE STEPPED INTO THE HERO ROLE. NOW WE HAVE TO LIVE UP TO IT...OR DIE TRYING.

--SAID WE'RE HERE TO HELP, SIR-- NOT TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE!

I'M SORRY YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH US, BUT THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM. NOW, LET US--

LOOK! IT'S THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!

FIGURES. NOW THAT THE *MATINEE IDOLS* ARE HERE, WE'RE GETTIN' *IGNORED*.. AS *USUAL*.

"*DOOM PATROL*"...?

THEY DON'T MAKE THE *PAPERS* MUCH. MOST PEOPLE FIND THEM...*UNSETTLING*.

THEY'RE ALL *ACCIDENT* VICTIMS. *SURVIVORS* BOUND BY *TRAGEDY*.

RACECAR DRIVER *CLIFF STEELE* NEARLY DIED IN A *CRASH*. HIS *HUMAN BRAIN* WAS PUT INTO A *MECHANICAL BODY*. THEY CALL HIM *ROBOTMAN*.

RITA FARR WAS AN *ACTRESS* EXPOSED TO *WEIRD GASES*. NOW SHE CAN CHANGE *SIZE*. PRESS LABELS HER *ELASTI-GIRL*.

LARRY TRAINOR WAS A PILOT EXPOSED TO *RADIATION*. NOW HE CAN RELEASE *NEGATIVE MAN*-- AN *ENERGY FORM* THAT CAN MOVE AT *LIGHTSPEED*-- WHILE HE *HIMSELF* IS CONFINED IN *LEADLINED BANDAGES*.

JLA? WE'RE THE *DOOM PATROL*. NICE TO *MEET* YOU.

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE WORKING *TOGETHER* ON THIS ONE. HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW *SO FAR*...

THEY'RE LONELY... VERY *MUCH APART* FROM THE HUMAN RACE.

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW THAT MUST *FEEL*...?

AN ARMY MADE OF HUMAN PARTS--?

AND NONE AS NICE AS YOURS, BLONDIE!

DOWN, LARRY!

NO-- STRIKE THAT! HEADS UP!

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

HOLY HANNAH, THEY'RE UGLY--

--AND COMIN' FROM ME, THAT'S SAYIN' SOMETHIN'! WE COULDA FOUND THEM BEFORE THEY FOUND US, BUT NO!

RITA JUST HADTA MEET GREEN LANTERN FIRST--!

HEY, N-MAN! WAIT YER TURN! THAT ONE WAS MINE!

CRACKLE

THEY'RE NOT *FLY BALLS*, CLIFF! YOU CAN'T "CALL" THEM! SHUT UP AND *FIGHT!*

NICE *TEAMWORK*, THOSE THREE.

HOW'D THEY LAST *THIS* LONG, DO YOU THINK?

BE *CAREFUL!* MY *TELEPATHY* SUGGESTS THAT MANY OF THESE CREATURES ARE *MELDED* TO *INNOCENT, FRIGHTENED VICTIMS!*

UNDERSTOOD, J'ONN! TAKE IT *EASY* ON THEM, EVERYONE! TRY NOT TO *HURT* THEM!

WE'LL WANT TO FIND A WAY TO *REPAIR* THIS HORROR--

"--IF POSSIBLE!"

HLLPPMEEEEEE

MY GOD...

FIRST, THOUGH, WE NEED TO *CONTAIN* THEM! RITA?

EVEN *THESE* HANDS CAN ONLY HOLD *SO MANY!*

--AND CANARY'S *SONIC SCREAM* WILL DRIVE THEM YOUR WAY!

GOOD *THINKING!* WE'LL NET THE *REST* OF THEM! J'ONN?

THEN BLOCK OFF THEIR *ESCAPE ROUTE--*

MY HEAT VISION WILL THICKEN THE *ROAD* INTO *TAR--*

--AND A DOME WILL PEN THEM *IN!*

I COULD HAVE DONE *ALL* THE GATHERING IF YOU'D *ASKED*, YOU KNOW...

AND YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT *US* NOT ACTIN' LIKE A TEAM?

AH. YOU *HEARD* THAT, DID YOU...?

THESE POOR CREATURES WERE SIMPLY A *DIVERSION* TO DRAW US *IN*. WE'LL BE UNDER *ATTACK* ANY *SECOND!*

GOOD *CALL*, GORGEOUS! I KNOW BAD GUYS WHEN I *SEE* THEM! LET'S *GO!*

GL, WAIT! THEY'RE *VERY* DANGEROUS--!

SO ARE *WE!* C'MON, JLA--LET'S SHOW THEM WHAT *FIRST-STRINGERS* ARE CAPABLE OF!

ARROGANCE, FIRST AND FOREMOST.

FIRE!

SSKOW!!

CANARY! CANARY, WHAT'S WRONG?

SAY SOME-THING!

YOU... YOU CAN'T...?

MY... RING...

WHERE'S... MY RING...?

WHERE...?

AQUAMAN...

...I CAN'T...

...WHY CAN'T I GET UP...?

WHY CAN'T...?

DINAH? DINAH, IS THAT YOU?

WHY IS IT SO DARK...?

MISSING SOMETHING, HEROES?

AN ARM HERE... A VOICE BOX THERE...? WELL, REST ASSURED...

...THEY'LL BE PUT TO GOOD USE!

CONTINUED...